

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/663,055	CASTANO ET AL.	
	Examiner Henry A. Blackner	Art Unit 3641	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication app ars on th cover sheet with the correspond nce address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

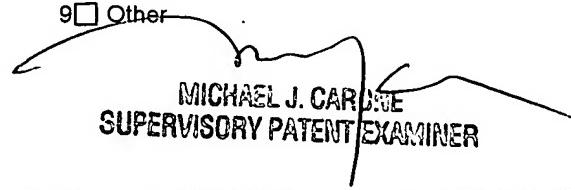
1.  This communication is responsive to 15 September 2003.
  2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
  3.  The drawings filed on 15 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
  4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    - a)  All
    - b)  Some\*
    - c)  None
    1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.
5.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
    - (a)  The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
  6.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**
7.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  8.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b)  including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the Examiner.
    - (c)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____.            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No. _____. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |



MICHAEL J. CARDONE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. In regards to the specification;
  - a. Deleted the term "FIG. 2" in the phrase "gas through apertures 32 (FIG. 2) into a region 34", page 5 line 21.
  - b. Inserted the following term between the ( ) in the phrase "gas through apertures 32 () into a region 34", page 5 line 21.

-- FIG. 1 --

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 is allowed, since the art of record does not show alone or in combination: an expandable annular skirt fixed on said hull and having an outer surface generally continuous with an outer surface of said hull, said skirt being expandable to increase a diameter of said skirt from proximate a diameter of said hull to proximate a diameter of the cavity, whereby to substantially reduce the flow of gas past said skirt.

Claims 2-9 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following documents show the state of the art in the field of High-Speed Supercavitating Underwater Vehicles.

U.S. Patent No. 6,405,653 B1 to Miskelly

U.S. Patent No. 5,955,698 to Harkins et al.

U.S. Patent No. 5,929,370 to Brown et al.

U.S. Patent No. 4,271,552 to Sandler

U.S. Patent No. 3,915,092 to Monson et al.

U.S. Patent No. 3,434,425 to Critcher

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Henry A. Blackner whose telephone number is 703-305-4799. The examiner can normally be reached on 09:15 - 17:45.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Carone can be reached on 703-306-4198. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9326.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-5771.

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23 January 2004

MICHAEL J. CARONE  
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